

In the Specification

Please amend the following paragraph as set forth on pages 44 and 45.

It is also a desideratum to apply lipid-drug delivery systems to the fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with currently approximately 42 million people worldwide estimated to be infected with HIV (UNAIDS. ~~Global summary of the HIV/AIDS epidemic: December 2003. Available from: http://www.unaids.org/wad/2003/press/Epiupdate2003_en/Ep03.sub_02_en.htm~~). Indeed, anti-HIV drugs, such as nucleoside analogs (e.g., dideoxynucleoside derivatives, including 3'-azido-3'-deoxythymidine [AZT], ddC, and ddI), protease inhibitors, or phosphonoacids (e.g., phosphonoformic and phosphonoacetic acids), have previously been lipid-derivatized or incorporated into liposomes (e.g., Hostetler, K Y et al., Methods of treating viral infections using antiviral liponucleotides, Ser. No. 09/846,398, US 2001/0033862; U.S. Pat. No. 5,223,263; Hostetler, K Y et al., Lipid derivatives of phosphonoacids for liposomal incorporation and method of use, U.S. Pat. No. 5,194,654; Gagne J F et al., Targeted delivery of indinavir to HIV-1 primary reservoirs with immunoliposomes, Biochim Biophys Acta 1558(2):198-210 [February 2002]). Still, in one report, subcutaneous injection of liposome-encapsulated ddI to C57BL/6 mice, resulted in low accumulation of liposomes in lymph nodes, compared to intravenous injection (Harvie, P et al., Lymphoid tissues targeting of liposome-encapsulated 2',3'-dideoxyinosine, AIDS 9:701-7 [1995]).

On page 74, please amend the following paragraph:

Myrianthus holstii Lectin (MHL): The roots of the African plant Myrianthuls holstii Pal., Urticaceae, contain a 9284 Da lectin. The Myrianthus holstii lectin (MHL or Myrianthin; other names: Omufe; Mafwisa; Mswisya; Mswiza) (~~National Cancer Institute [NCI], Center for Cancer Research, USA. Myrianthus holstii lectin. <http://home.ncifcrf.gov/mdp/compounds/714343.html>~~) exhibits potent anti-HIV activity. MHL contains 16 disulfide-linked cysteine residues. Sequence analysis successfully assigned 79 amino acid residues out of 88, suggesting the presence of multiple isoforms differing in their primary structures at positions 52, 66, and 69 (Charan R D, Munro M H, O'Keefe B R, Sowder R C II, McKee T C, Currens M J, Pannell L K, Boyd M R. Isolation and characterization of Myrianthus holstii lectin, a potent HIV-1 inhibitory protein from the plant Myrianthus holstii. J Nat Prod 2000;63:1170-4; and reviewed in Botos I, Wlodawer A. Proteins that bind high-mannose sugars of the HIV envelope. Prog Biophys Mol Biol: in press). CEM-SS cells were protected by MHL from the cytopathic effects of the laboratory strain HIV-1RF. The effective concentration for 50% of cell protection (EC.sub.50 value) was 1.4 .mu.g/ml

(150 nM). MHL did not prove to be toxic to target cells even at the highest tested concentration of 250 mg/ml (i.e., two orders of magnitude above the EC₅₀ value). The disulfide bonds apparently are structurally important for functional integrity, as the anti-HIV activity was lost upon their reductive cleavage (Balzarini J, Neyts J, Schols D, Hosoya M, Van Damne E, Peumans W, De Clercq E. The mannose-specific plant lectins from *Cymbidium* hybrid and *Epipactis helleborine* and the (N-acetylglucosamine)_n-specific plant lectin from *Urtica dioica* are potent and selective inhibitors of human immunodeficiency virus and cytomegalovirus replication in vitro. *Antiviral Res* 1992;18:191-207).

On page 82, please amend the following paragraph:

The invention can complement and extend these earlier suggestions. Specifically, addressing members of the REG family in a hepatogastroenterological context by topical application of the inventive targeting system may afford delivering therapeutic drugs/compounds in a highly site-specific manner. In principal, such an approach may enable interference with either of the ailments mentioned above. However, the potentially most challenging application refers to cancers of the colon and rectum. As of 2003, in all western industrialized countries, such as the United States and Germany, such cancers have been the second most common cause of deaths from cancer in both sexes (Bruckner H W. Adenocarcinoma of the Colon and Rectum. In: Frei E, Holland J F (eds.) *Cancer Medicine*. 5th ed. Chapter 103. B C Decker; Hamilton, London 2000: pp 1472-520; Jacobi V, Thalhammer A, Straub R, Vogl T J. Importance of coloncontrast enema. *Radiologe* 2003;43:113-21). It presently appears unlikely that this situation will change considerably unless more promising treatment options become available (~~World Health Organization Mediacentre. Global cancer rates could increase by 50% to 15 million by 2020. Accessed on 8 August 2003. Available from: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2003/pr27/en/>~~).